

November 13, 2015

Chris Mehus, Executive Director
Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc.
604 W. Front Avenue
Joliet, MT 59041

RE: **Final Project Closeout** – Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame

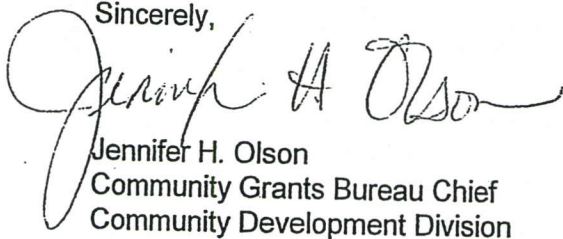
Dear: Mr. Mehus,

According to the previously approved Project Completion Report and Department of Commerce financial records, the Cowboy Hall of Fame has expended all \$500,000 Cowboy Hall of Fame funds awarded for this project. The final closeout certification was submitted on 9/30/2015, Beartooth has met the for final closeout approval.

Please consider this letter documentation of final closeout approval of the Cowboy Hall of Fame by the Department of Commerce Community Development Division. Beartooth's staff and everyone involved in this project are commended for their accomplishments in making this a successful project.

Please remember that all Cowboy Hall of Fame related records must be retained for **three** years after receipt of this letter, and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 841-2773 or e-mail me at jeolson@mt.gov.

Sincerely,


Jennifer H. Olson
Community Grants Bureau Chief
Community Development Division

Project Completion Report

Grantee:	Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. on behalf of Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, Big Timber, MT	
Primary Contact	Chris Mehus	
Phone & Email	(406)930-6290	chris.mehus@gmail.com
County, City, Zip Code	Sweet Grass, Big Timber, 59011	
MDOC Contract Number	13-60-002	
Objective	The purpose of the Contract was to provide grant funding to assist in site development and project planning at the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame (MCHF) in Big Timber, Montana.	
Status of the Project	The project has been fully completed.	
Project Completion Date	09-16-2015	
Cumulative Costs Incurred over Life of Project	\$421,176.91	
Total amount of funds expended	\$421,176.91	
Project Accomplishments	During the course of this project the following items were completed: A National Campaign Feasibility Testing Study; A Pro-forma Operating and Economic Impact Study; Signage, Fundraising, and Marketing/Promotional Materials; Physical Building Construction, Infrastructure and Site Improvements; Numerous Planning, Design, Architectural, Engineering and Permitting Documents.	
Problems Encountered in Carrying out the Project	Various challenges were encountered during the course of the project, including: misunderstandings between Grantee and Grantor regarding the purpose and use of grant funds; reporting and documentation issues; various problems with consultants and contractors regarding expectations, deliverables, and invoicing; timing between invoicing and actual payment to the contractors.	

Any Additional Comments	
<p><i>To the best of my knowledge and belief, the information provided on this form is true and correct.</i></p> <p>Signature: <u>Chris Melan</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Economic Development Project Coordinator</u></p> <p>Date: <u>09-30-15</u></p>	

Olson, Jennifer (DOC)

From: Chris Mehus <chris.mehus@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:31 PM
To: Lynch, Kelly; Olson, Jennifer (DOC); Mitchell, Doug; Martello, Bonnie; Aaron Lyles
Subject: Thanks a million

To all of you at Commerce that have contributed along the way,
I just wanted to take a chance to express my gratitude for your efforts in seeing our project through to completion. As I filled out the "difficulties encountered" section of the final report, I reflected on how few negative issues were encountered along this road. Particularly considering the number and breadth of pieces and parts that went into the overall effort. It has been a complex project from the start, and I know how much time each of you (as well as others in your department) have committed to get us to this point.
Again, many thanks!! on behalf of Beartooth RC&D, the City of Big Timber, MT Cowboy Hall of Fame...and many others
Best,
Chris

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Chris Mehus